

MACHINE
MAN

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP



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THEY MADE HIM
IN THEIR OWN
IMAGE--
THEN
CONDEMNED
HIM TO
DEATH
FOR
BEING
TOO
HUMAN!

MACHINE man™

THE LIVING ROBOT

HUNTED,
HOUNDED, HE
FIGHTS TO
SURVIVE IN
A HOSTILE
WORLD!



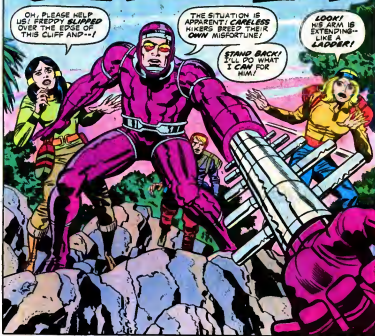
This is the story of X-51—a thinking computer in the form of a man. As Aaron Stack, he tries to find a place in a world that's not quite ready for his kind—but will he find it as friend, foe, or the greatest hero of them all?

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: THE ADVENTURES OF THE ROBOT WITH A SOUL!

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY **JACK KIRBY** • LETTERED BY **MIKE ROYER** • COLORED BY **PETRA G.**
ENJOYED BY **ARCHIE G.**

HE LOOKS LIKE A MAN...HE THINKS LIKE A MAN...BUT NOWHERE IN THIS WORLD IS THERE ANYONE AS EXCITING AND DIFFERENT AS...

MACHINE MAN



OH, PLEASE HELP US! FREDDY SLIPPED OVER THE EDGE OF THIS CLIFF AND--!

THE SITUATION IS APPARENT! CARELESS HIKERS BREED THEIR OWN MISFORTUNE!

LOOK! HIS ARM IS EXTENDING-- LIKE A LADDER!

STAND BACK! I'LL DO WHAT I CAN FOR HIM!

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MEANTIME,
BELOW...

HELP ME!
I CAN'T HANG
ON MUCH
LONGER!

DON'T PANIC,
FRIEND! NOW
REACH UP,
SLOWLY!

EASY-- EASY!

KEEP
TRYING,
FELLA!
YOU CAN
MAKE IT!

I CAN'T!
I-I'M
SHAKING
LIKE A
LEAF!

GOOD
GRIEF!
HE'S
LOST HIS
FOOTING!

AAAAA!



THERE'S NO CHOICE! I MUST CANCEL GRAVITY AND SCOOP HIM UP IN MID-AIR!

THIS MAY STARTLE THE HIKERS... BUT IT WILL SAVE A LIFE!

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?



I'VE GOT HIM!

YOU'LL NEVER HIT BOTTOM, CHUM! JUST STOP THAT SCREAMING AND RELAX!



THE WORST YOU'LL SUFFER IS A CASE OF JITTERS!

NOW DID YOU DO THAT, MISTER? I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE OF SURVIVING THAT FALL!



HE'S RESCUED FREDDY! IT'S THE MOST FANTASTIC THING I'VE EVER SEEN!

HERE'S YOUR FRIEND... A LITTLE BREATHELESS... BUT ALIVE!

MISTER... YOU'VE TOPPED ANYTHING THAT EVIL KRIEVEL EVER DID!



DON'T SAY A WORD... JUST BE GRATEFUL FOR THE MIRACLE WHICH BROUGHT THIS MAN!

WE'D LIKE TO THANK YOU, SIR...

I WAS GLAD TO BE OF ASSISTANCE!



MEANWHILE, IN A TOP-SECRET DIVISION
OF GOVERNMENTAL RESEARCH...

DESPITE YOUR
DEPLORABLE VIEW
OF BUREAUCRATS,
I MUST EXPEDITE THE
WORK ASSIGNED TO
ME IN WASHINGTON,
DOCTOR BROADHURST!

IF YOU WISH TO
PRESIDE OVER THE
FUNERAL OF THIS
PROJECT, THEN BE
MY GUEST!

WHAT HAPPENED
HERE, DOCTOR? I
UNDERSTAND THAT
THE X-MODELS WERE
NOT ONLY UNWISELY
CONCEIVED, BUT THAT
THEY FUNCTIONED
TOO WELL!

YES, THE
OPERATION
WAS A
SUCCESS,
BUT THE
PATIENTS
DIED!

THE X-MODELS WERE *MACHINES*
IN THE FORM OF *MEN*! THEY
HAD THE CAPACITY TO FUNCTION
UNDER ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE STRESS!
YET, THEY *HAD* TO BE DESTROYED.

WHAT WENT
WRONG, S-R?

THOSE MARVELOUS NEO-HUMAN MECHANISMS
DEVELOPED AN AILMENT *COMMON* TO ALL
MEN! THEY SUFFERED AN
IDENTITY CRISIS!

IN SHORT, IT
DROVE THEM MAD!

EACH SUCCESSIVE
X-MODEL RAN
AMUCK AND BEGAN
WHAT AMOUNTED TO
A *SMALL WAR*!
OUR SECURITY
FORCES TOOK
HEAVY
CASUALTIES!

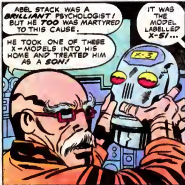
WHEN THE DECISION
WAS MADE TO
DESTROY THOSE MACHINES,
THIS ENTIRE PROJECT
BECAME THE FINAL
VICTIM!

IF THEY COULD THINK
AND FEEL LIKE MEN,
THEN *WHY* WERE THEY
LOOKED UPON AS
ANIMATED METAL?!

I BELIEVE
THERE WAS
ONE MAN
WHO FOUND
AN
ANSWER!

THIS
PROVED
TO BE
A
FATAL
QUESTION!

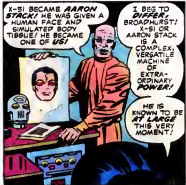




ABEL STACK WAS A BRILLIANT PSYCHOLOGIST! BUT HE TOO WAS MARTYRED TO THIS CAUSE.

HE TOOK ONE OF THESE X-MODELS INTO HIS HOME AND TREATED HIM AS A SON!

IT WAS THE MODEL LABELLED X-51...



X-51 BECAME AARON STACK! HE WAS GIVEN A HUMAN FACE AND SIMULATED BODY TISSUE! HE BECAME ONE OF US!

I BEG TO DIFFER, BROADHURST! X-51 OR AARON STACK IS A COMPLEX, VERSATILE MACHINE OF EXTRA-ORDINARY POWER!

HE IS KNOWN TO BE AT LARGE THIS VERY MOMENT!



YOU'VE GOT MY REPORT! HE'S UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE! AARON IS OUR LAST HOPE FOR SUCCESS!

THE FACT REMAINS THAT YOUR ORDER TO DESTROY ALL X-MODELS WAS NOT CARRIED OUT TO THE LETTER!



IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THIS REMAINING SURVIVOR IS ROAMING FREE WITH YOUR APPROVAL!

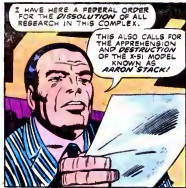
YES! YES!

IT IS MY DUTY AS A SCIENTIST TO TAKE THAT RISK!



THEN, IT IS MY DUTY TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THIS PROJECT IS AT AN END!

DON'T SPARE THE DETAILS!



I HAVE HERE A FEDERAL ORDER FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF ALL RESEARCH IN THIS COMPLEX.

THIS ALSO CALLS FOR THE APPREHENSION AND DESTRUCTION OF THE X-51 MODEL KNOWN AS AARON STACK!

AT THAT MOMENT, AARON HAS REACHED THE FLOOR OF THE FOREST...

THIS ROAD SHOULD LEAD TO THE HIGHWAY AND A LIFT TO THE NEAREST TOWN.

HITCH-HIKING *ISN'T* MY STYLE, BUT IT WILL CAUSE LESS OF A STIR THAN ANTI-GRAVITY FLIGHT!



OH, NO! ANOTHER NATURE-LOVER WITH A PROBLEM!

THIS MUST BE MY DAY FOR PLAYING GOOD SAMARITAN!



YOU'LL HAVE TO DRIVE YOUR VAN OFF THE ROAD IN ORDER TO BYPASS THAT FALLEN TREE.

CAN'T BE DONE...THE VEGETATION'S TOO THICK ON EITHER SIDE! I'LL NEVER MAKE IT!



WELL, IF YOU DON'T MIND A LITTLE HELP, I BELIEVE I CAN TAKE CARE OF THIS RATHER QUICKLY!

GOOD LORD! HE LOOKS LIKE THE PILOT OF A U.F.O.!



THEN...

THIS IS UNCANNY! HE'S LIFTING THAT GIANT OAK WITH NO EFFORT AT ALL!

PLEASE STAND CLEAR OF THE TREE! I MAY HAVE TO TURN IT A BIT IN ORDER TO REMOVE IT!



THIS VEGETATION IS THICK AND **RESISTANT**, AS YOU CLAIMED... BUT I THINK I CAN MANAGE TO **MARK** THE TREE!

AMAZING!
YOU'RE
SIMPLY
AMAZING!

NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IS SOMEWHAT **EXTRA-ORDINARY**, BUT I URGE YOU **NOT** TO FELT ME WITH QUESTIONS!

YOU'RE VERY **MODEST** FOR A FELLOW WHO CAN DO THINGS LIKE **THAT**!

MY REASONS HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH **EGO**... HOWEVER, I ASSURE YOU THAT THEY'RE **VALID** AND **LAW-FUL**!

NO NEED TO BE **DEFENSIVE**. I'M **PETER SPALDING**, AND YOU'VE JUST MADE THIS A VACATION TO REMEMBER!

IF YOU'D **ACCEPT** A RIDE IN MY VAN, I'D BE **PLEASED** TO DROP YOU OFF WHERE-**EVER** YOU WISH!

THAT SOUNDS FAIR ENOUGH. YOU'VE GOT A **PASSENGER**.

SOON...

DON'T MISTAKE THIS FOR AN ATTEMPT TO **PRY**... BUT A LITTLE SMALL TALK WOULD PUT US BOTH **MORE** AT EASE.

I SEE **NO** HARM IN IT. I'M A FELLOW WHO'S DUE FOR A **CHANGE** OF CLOTHES AND A **MEANINGFUL** JOB.



STRANGELY ENOUGH, MISTER SPALDING, MY AIM IN LIFE IS TO LIVE JUST LIKE **JOHNNY AVERAGE**... AND TAKE NO MORE THAN WHAT IS **GUARANTEED** IN OUR CONSTITUTION!

THAT SEEMS LIKE A SIMPLE, FORTHRIGHT AMBITION. THE **AMERICAN DREAM** IS A GOOD DREAM--CONSIDERING THAT **MILLIONS** BUY IT DAILY.



OF COURSE, IF ONE **WASN'T** EXACTLY A **JOHNNY AVERAGE**, HE MIGHT DEVELOP A COMPULSION TO **LOSE** HIMSELF AMONG A CROWD THAT LARGE.

IF YOU'RE REFERRING TO **ME**, YOU'VE **MISSSED** THE MARK!

I'M A **WELL-ADJUSTED** AND **RATIONAL** INDIVIDUAL!

IT'S AN URGE **COMMON** TO THOSE WHO FEEL THEY DON'T **BELONG**!



ALL I WANT TO DO IS **STAY** THAT WAY!

THERE ARE OBVIOUS **DIFFERENCES** BETWEEN YOU AND ME -- BUT THEY'RE **NOT MENTAL**!

FINE AND DANDY! ONLY I CAN WALK AMONG PEOPLE WITHOUT **FEAR** OF BEING NOTICED!



NOW GET THIS, FRIEND! I'VE GOT **NOTHING** TO HIDE AND **MUCH** TO BE PROUD OF!

GREAT DEPUCTION. YOU SEE, I AM A **PSYCHIATRIST**! A **GOOD** ONE, TOO!

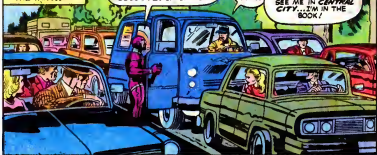
YOU'RE PROBABLY A **PSYCHIATRIST** WITH A VEN FOR **SPOT ANALYSIS**-- WHICH I RECOMMEND THAT YOU **STOP** IMMEDIATELY!

AT THAT MOMENT,
THE MACHINE MAN
ABRUPTLY LEAVES
THE VAN...

GETTING A "NO-PRIZE"
FOR GOOD GUESSING ISN'T
MY IDEA OF AMUSEMENT!
GOODBYE, SPALDING!

BORRY
TO BE
SUCH A
DRAG!

BUT YOU *DO* HAVE
A PROBLEM, COME TO
SEE ME IN *CENTRAL*
CITY...I'M IN THE
BOOK!



NOT A CHANCE! MY ONLY
PROBLEM AT THIS MOMENT
IS CONGESTED TRAFFIC...
WHICH I CAN DEAL WITH
IN SHORT ORDER!

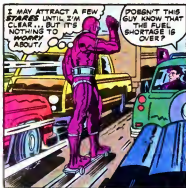


THIS SKATE-BOARD METHOD
SHOULD GET ME THROUGH THE
NARROW SPACES WITHOUT
DIFFICULTY. I CAN REGULATE
THE SPEED WITH MY SHOE
JETS!



I MAY ATTRACT A FEW
STARES UNTIL I'M
CLEAR... BUT IT'S
NOTHING TO
WORRY
ABOUT!

DOESN'T THIS
GUY KNOW THAT
THE FUEL
SHORTAGE IS
OVER?

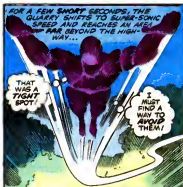


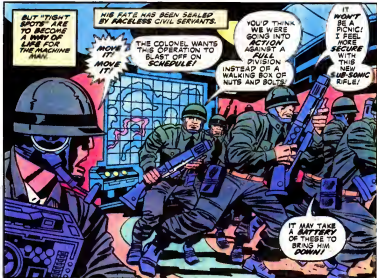
BEEP BEEP!

THINGS
ARE
GETTING
A BIT
TRICKY
HERE!

GET OFF
THE ROAD
YOU FOOL!







BUT "TIGHT SPOTS" ARE TO BECOME A WAY OF LIFE FOR THE MACHINE MAN.

HIS FATE HAS BEEN SEALED BY FACELESS CIVIL SERVANTS.

MOVE IT!
MOVE IT!
MOVE IT!

THE COLONEL WANTS THIS OPERATION TO BLAST OFF ON SCHEDULE!

YOU'D THINK WE WERE GOING INTO ACTION AGAINST A FULL DIVISION INSTEAD OF A WALKING BOX OF NUTS AND BOLTS!

IT WON'T BE A PICNIC! I FEEL MORE SECURE WITH THIS NEW SUB-SOMC RIFLE!

IT MAY TAKE A BATTERY OF THESE TO BRING HIM DOWN!



IN THE QUARTERS OF COLONEL KRAGG...

THEN YOU MEAN TO CARRY OUT YOUR ORDERS TO THE LETTER—IS THAT IT?

THAT'S EXACTLY IT, DOCTOR BROADHURST! WE AIM TO DESTROY OUR TARGET—AND YOU CAN COUNT ON OUR DOING A GOOD JOB OF IT!



THINK, KRAGG, THINK! THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF HUNTING DOWN SOME LOWER FORM OF LIFE! THIS MACHINE IS MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY AS HUMAN AS WE ARE!

YEAH? I'VE HEARD YOUR LOFTY QUOTES BEFORE!

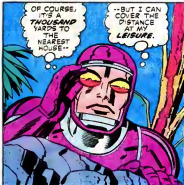
BUT THEY CUT NO ICE IN WASHINGTON...AND MEAN EVEN LESS TO ME!



TWO MIGHTY FORCES ARE SOON TO CLASH!
ONE IS SPEEDING TO THE SCENE OF BATTLE,
THE OTHER SURVEYS HIS SURROUNDINGS
WITH EYE-LENSES OF SUPER-SENSITIVITY...

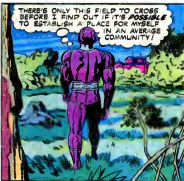


HOMES...LAWNS...GARDENS.
I'VE REACHED THE OUT-
SKIRTS OF A TOWN!



OF COURSE,
IT'S A
THOUSAND
YARDS TO
THE
NEAREST
HOUSE--

--BUT I CAN
COVER THE
DISTANCE
AT MY
LEISURE.



THERE'S ONLY THIS FIELD TO CROSS
BEFORE I FIND OUT IF IT'S POSSIBLE
TO ESTABLISH A PLACE FOR MYSELF
IN AN AVERAGE
COMMUNITY!



I'M CERTAIN
THAT I CAN
CONTACT PEOPLE
OF AN
UNDERSTANDING
NATURE WHO
WILL NOT FEAR
SOMEONE--
DIFFERENT!

ADVANCE GUARD
TO
RED LEADER!
HAVE
SIGHTED
TARGET!



SECONDS LATER, THE
TARGET SIGHTS HIS
PURSUERS...

A
JET-
COPTER?

I
WONDER
IF --!

OPEN
FIRE!

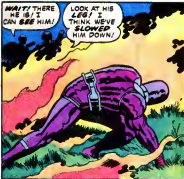


PPREEEE!

UGH!
THEY'RE
USING
SONIC
RIFLES!



BEFORE THE ASSAULT FORCE CAN RECOVER,
IT FINDS ITS PATH BLOCKED BY A
SPREADING SCREEN OF FIRE...





TARNATION!
HE'S GONE!

NOW
COULD
HE HAVE
DISAPPEARED
THIS FAST?!

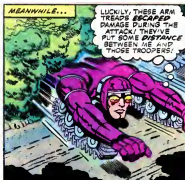
WE PROBABLY
DIDN'T PUT ALL O'
HIS GADGETS OUT
OF ACTION!
BUT HE CAN'T
HAVE GOTTEN
FAR!



IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'LL
TRACK HIM DOWN! THAT
HOMING DEVICE IN HIS SKULL
WILL LEAD US TO HIM!

WE CAN BYPASS
THIS FIRE!
LET'S GET
THE JOB DONE!

YES
SIR!



MEANWHILE...

LUCKILY, THESE ARM
TREADS ESCAPED
DAMAGE DURING THE
ATTACK! THEY'VE
PUT SOME DISTANCE
BETWEEN ME AND
THOSE TROOPERS!



THAT SIGN IS A WELCOME
SIGHT! IF I CAN REACH
THE TOWN BEFORE I'M
OVERTAKEN, I CAN
FIND SHELTER AND
MAKE REPAIRS!

CENTRAL
CITY
2 MI.

STRANGE...
THAT NAME
STRIKES A
FAMILIAR
NOTE.



OF COURSE--! THE
FELLOW IN THE VAN--
PETER SPALDING!

HE LIVES IN
CENTRAL CITY!



I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT
STRIKING UP A FRIEND-
SHIP WITH A PSYCHIATRIST--
BUT HE DID OFFER HIS
HELP...AND RIGHT
NOW I'M IN URGENT
NEED OF IT!

THE MACHINE MAN ENBARKS ON A
BIZARRE ADVENTURE OF
FRIGHTENING DIMENSIONS!

NEXT:

HOUSE OF NIGHT- MARES